

**EXHIBIT "A" - Claims marked to show changes**

1           1. (Twice Amended) A multi-codebook fixed bitrate CELP signal block encoding/decoding  
2 method, including the steps of  
3           selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding excitation codebook identification utilizing  
4 a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type; and  
5           encoding/decoding each signal block by using [a] an excitation codebook having said selected  
6 excitation codebook identification.

1           2. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, including the steps of  
2           providing several sets of excitation codebooks;  
3           determining, for each signal block, a corresponding set of excitation codebooks based on  
4 previously determined values of other signal block characterizing parameters;  
5           selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding excitation codebook identification in the  
6 determined set utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type; and  
7           encoding/decoding each signal block by using an excitation codebook [a codebook] from said  
8 determined set having said selected excitation codebook identification.

1           3. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, including the steps of  
2           selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding excitation codebook identification utilizing  
3 a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type;  
4           providing several sets of excitation codebooks;

5 determining, for each signal block, a corresponding set of excitation codebooks based on  
6 previously determined values of other signal block characterizing parameters; and  
7 encoding/decoding each signal block by using [a] an excitation codebook from said deter-  
8 mined set having said selected excitation codebook identification.

1 4. The method of claim 2 or 3, wherein said other parameters are channel protected.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein only parts of said channel protected parameters that  
2 allow error detection are used.

1 6. (Amended) The method of claim 2 or 3, wherein said deterministic selection procedure is  
2 defined by cyclically stepping through each excitation codebook identification in said sets of  
3 excitation codebooks.

1 7. (Amended) The method of claim 2 or 3, wherein said deterministic selection procedure is  
2 defined by randomly stepping through each excitation codebook identification in said sets of  
3 excitation codebooks.

1 8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said excitation codebooks are fixed excitation  
2 codebooks.

1           9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said excitation codebooks are algebraic  
2 excitation codebooks.

1           10.     The method of claim 1, wherein said signal block is an audio frame.

1           11.     The method of claim 1, wherein said signal block is an audio subframe.

1           12. (Twice Amended) A multi-codebook fixed bitrate CELP signal block encoder/decoder,  
2 including

3           [a]an excitation codebook selector for selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding  
4 excitation codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of  
5 signal type; and

6           means for encoding/decoding each signal block by using [a] an excitation codebook having  
7 said selected excitation codebook identification.

1           13. (Twice Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 12, including  
2 several sets of excitation codebooks;  
3 a set selector for determining, for each signal block, a corresponding set of excitation  
4 codebooks, based on previously determined values of other signal block characterizing parameters;

5 [a]an excitation codebook selector for selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding  
6 excitation codebook identification in the determined set utilizing a deterministic selection procedure  
7 that is independent of signal type; and

8 means for encoding/decoding each signal block by using [a] an excitation codebook from said  
9 determined set having said selected excitation codebook identification.

1 14. (Twice Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 12, including

2 [a]an excitation codebook selector for selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding  
3 excitation codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of  
4 signal type;

5 several sets of excitation codebooks;

6 a set selector for determining, for each signal block, a corresponding set of excitation  
7 codebooks based on previously determined values of other signal block characterizing parameters;  
8 and

9 means for encoding/decoding each signal block by using [a] an excitation codebook from said  
10 determined set having said selected codebook identification.

1 15. (Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 12, 13 or 14, wherein said excitation codebook  
2 selector cyclically steps through each excitation codebook identification in said sets of excitation  
3 codebooks.

1           16. (Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 12, 13 or 14, wherein said excitation codebook  
2 selector randomly steps through each excitation codebook identification in said sets of excitation  
3 codebooks.

1           17. (Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 12, wherein said excitation codebooks are fixed  
2 codebooks.

1           18. (Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 17, wherein said excitation codebooks are  
2 algebraic excitation codebooks.

1           19. (Twice Amended) [A]An excitation codebook selection method for multi-codebook fixed  
2 bitrate CELP signal block encoding/decoding, including the step of:  
3 selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding excitation codebook identification utilizing  
4 a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type, said codebook identification  
5 identifying a particular excitation codebook.

1           20. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said deterministic selection procedure is  
2 defined by cyclically stepping through each excitation codebook identification in a set of excitation  
3 codebooks.

1           21. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said deterministic selection procedure is  
2 defined by randomly stepping through each excitation codebook identification in a set of excitation  
3 codebooks.

1           22. (Twice Amended) A codebook selection apparatus for multi-codebook fixed bitrate CELP  
2 signal block encoding/decoding, including:

3           [a]an excitation codebook selector for selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding  
4 excitation codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of  
5 signal type, said excitation codebook identification identifying a particular excitation codebook.

1           23. (Twice Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 22, characterized by said codebook  
2 selector cyclically stepping through each excitation codebook identification in a set of excitation  
3 codebooks.

1           24. (Twice Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 22, wherein said excitation codebook  
2 selector randomly steps through each excitation codebook identification in a set of excitation  
3 codebooks.

1           25. (Amended) An algebraic multi-codebook structure, wherein  
2 each excitation codebook being selectable and having [has] separate tracks with different  
3 predetermined allowed pulse positions and excluded pulse positions; and

4 each selectable excitation codebook [has] having different excluded pulse positions.